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SHADOWS ON THE BAYOU TECHE, NEW IBERIA, LA

National Trust for Historic Preservation

The Shadows, Bayou facade.

Cover: This 1861 water color is one of two by Adrian Persac, landscape painter active in Louisiana between 1857 and 1872, which hangs in *The Shadows.* The figures in the foreground are Godey prints which the artist attached to his painting.

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CONTENTS

Shadows on the Teche	72-73, 95	*How One Society Does It*	86-87
Twelfth Annual Meeting	74-76	*Audubon Houses*	88-91
Bolduc House	76-77	*Scientific Report*	91
Louise E. du Pont Crowninshield	78	*Historical Administrators' Seminar*	91
Headquarters News	78	*Salt Lake City Hall*	92-94
Outer Space	79-80	*Legislation*	94-95
Lockerbie Fair	81-82	*News of Members*	96-98
Preservation As Seen by a Professor	83-85	*Destruction*	98-100
"Strawbery Banke"	86	*Proposed Preservation*	100-101
Membership	86	*Stock For Sale*	101
		In Danger	102-103
		Publications	103-107

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Shadows on the Teche

This year there will be a new shadow on the Bayou Teche in New Iberia, La.

It will be an amiable shade, who died content on June 27 at the age of 63, knowing that the great house and oak-shaded gardens, to which he devoted the better part of a lifetime, will be saved for the American people in the trusteeship of the National Trust to which he bequeathed it.

In the closing years of his life, crippled by accident and plagued with blindness, Weeks Hall devoted his entire energy to insuring a future for *The Shadows on the Teche*. He had offered the Trust the great house, including the accumulated treasures of the Weeks and Hall families and an endowment for their maintenance, and his offer had been accepted.

The house was built by his great-grandfather, David Weeks, in the 1830's, of a soft pink-colored brick in a style that is a melange of the foreign influences that finally culminated in the distinctive house style that is now associated with the Louisiana country. For a brief period the main currents of history touched *The Shadows* in 1864, when Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks took over the house as Union headquarters. The widow of Edward Weeks died during this occupancy and was buried in the small burying ground under the oaks, a victim, they said, of shock and sorrow.

Gradually the great estate of David Weeks, which had included *Cypemont, Richochoc, Acadie,* Weeks Island (where vast salt deposits were discovered), and *The Shadows* dwindled. As Harnett Kane wrote, "Worse things than the war came for *The Shadows.* The other buildings dropped away as the estate approached bankruptcy; eventually only this plantation was left, and much of it is no more. The last of the old slave buildings disappeared; the town crept up on the property and reduced it to three acres. Only the great house itself remained with its back to the bayou. Then for a time the family left it. A single caretaker watched it fade and sag among the weeds, until some thought that *The Shadows* would soon be with the many other reminders of the past that crumbled to wreckage."

It was at this point that Weeks Hall returned home from Paris where he was studying art. After graduation from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, he had served in Naval Intelligence in World War I, and remained abroad for some years.

He immediately summoned trained advisors and under their direction the house was restored by Armstrong & Koch in 1922. Richard Koch, F.A.I.A., made a detailed photographic and other record of all replacements of worn details and of the few essential addi-

tions of modern improvements. Weeks Hall himself re-established the garden, after painstaking research. The ruins of a Victorian hothouse were converted into a reflecting pool, and sculptures of the four seasons were collected from nearby plantation houses to embellish the grounds.

Here Weeks Hall established himself, and here came all the great, and the near-great, to share the fabulous hospitality of one who was both a *bon vivant* and sparkling *raconteur*. Writers, artists, sculptors, photographers, novelists, great motion picture directors, and leading actors and actresses frequented *The Shadows*, many of them leaving behind, on a cherished door, signatures and comment—among these is one by the Chairman of the National Trust and Mrs. David E. Finley, written a few short years ago, "Foreshadowing things to come. . . ."

This was written in a happier mood when it was hoped that the members of the National Trust would accept Hall's invitation to visit *The Shadows* as his guests during the Twelfth Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We are still very much his guests, and if we were to doubt it, we have only to turn to the letters, news stories, and columns that appeared throughout Louisiana in June.

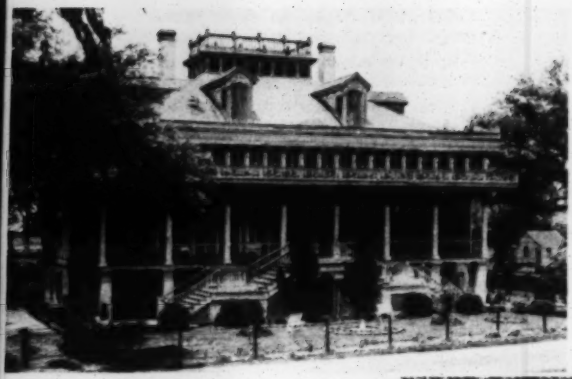
Harnett Kane wrote us, "even for a state which produces *characters* as exuberant as its foliage, Weeks Hall was a character of characters. He was a man of high taste, of superb gusto and a deep love of his scene—and also of his house, *Shadows on the Teche*, one of the two or three major sights of the Creole country.

"Some called Weeks the last of the great Southern gentlemen; others, a *grand seigneur* with a Puck's sense of humor. Above all he seemed *sui generis*, a man of highly individual ideas and the will to put them into effect. And he had dedicated himself to his great white-columned residence. . . . For years, however, he worried: Would it all go with his death; would Louisiana fools (and the state has its full quota of them) try to turn it into a parking lot or the site of several hot dog stands? He died happier, I am certain, in the knowledge that the National Trust had accepted his generous bequest."

The author, his friend of many years, went on about his "yeasty" personality, his mischievous pranks, his fabulous long-distance calls at any hour of the day or night to friends in every section of the world. And he had them. He also told of the time when he called some friends in Normandy to ask them if they weren't longing to hear some Negro spirituals, and then he put several of his helpers on the overseas telephone to sing for the nostalgic ones.

(Continued on page 95)

The Shadows, garden facade



San Francisco, "Steamboat Gothic" plantation house near Garyville, La., will be open to anyone who wishes to stop, going or coming from the annual meeting. It is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Thompson.

Beauregard House, 1113 Chartres Street, New Orleans, is the residence of Mrs. Frances Parkinson Keyes.

This 1848 lithograph of the New Orleans City Hall was made in London shortly before erection of the hall. Built by James Gallier, one of New Orleans' greatest architects, the city hall is threatened with destruction.

Twelfth Annual Meeting

New Orleans will be the setting for the twelfth annual meeting, scheduled for October 31-November 2, with an optional trip to New Iberia on November 3 for a preview of *The Shadows on the Bayou Teche,* which was inherited this year from its late owner, Weeks Hall.

Advance registration and consultation will begin Thursday evening, October 30, at the Roosevelt Hotel, which is headquarters for the meeting. The annual meeting and dinner of the Board of Trustees will be held that night also.

Friday morning, following the annual business meeting, there will be a session devoted to the problem of the impact of the 41,000 miles of federal-aid highways now expanding through the country. Christopher Tunnard, director of the Graduate Program in City Planning at Yale University, and author of numerous works in this field, will discuss "Our Man-made Landscape"; and John C. Harrington, archaeologist and regional chief of interpretation of Region One of the National Park Service, will deal with the cooperative archaeological salvage program in areas where prehistoric or historic sites are invaded.

Mrs. W. Randolph Burgess, trustee of the National Trust and wife of the United States Ambassador to NATO in Paris, will be the principal speaker at lunch that day on the subject of "La Demeure Historique." The afternoon and evening will be spent touring the Vieux Carré, starting with The Cabildo, the 1850 House, and Madame John's Legacy (as guests of the Louisiana State Museum). Mrs. Frances Parkinson Keyes will hold a reception at the Beauregard House; and in the evening eight patios in the Quarter will be open by candlelight. Members will be provided with a guide map and also a list of suggested famous restaurants in the area, and will make their own dinner arrangements. The North American Association of Historic Sites Public Officials is meeting concurrently with the National Trust and will hold its annual banquet that evening, to which Trust members are invited. The speaker at their meeting will be Bell I. Wiley, professor of history at Emory University, author of *Life of Johnny Reb, Common Soldier of the Confederacy; Life of Billy Yank, Common Soldier of the Union; Road to Appomattox;* and other studies of the Civil War. His topic will be, "The Memorable War."

The Saturday morning program will be devoted to two professional sessions, the first dealing with historic preservation as a factor in city planning and urban renewal. Speakers of this session will be Jacob Morrison, attorney of New Orleans and author of a study of historic preservation law; and Mrs. William Slater Allen, of the Providence Preservation Society, who will talk about the plan for historic conservation and renewal in that Rhode Island City.

The next session that morning will deal with major problems on the administrative side of historic preservation. Edward P. Alexander, vice president and director of the Division of Interpretation of Colonial Williamsburg, will talk on "Wanted: Historical Interpreters" and will explain the cooperative program of Colonial Williamsburg and the National Trust for a summer graduate training course for administrators. Charles van Ravenswaay will deal with the problems of acceptance and disposal of gifts and duplicates under the title, "The Care and Feeding of White Elephants." Walter Muir Whitehill, director and

librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, will discuss standards of historical authenticity in a talk on "Beef before Baubles."

Lunch will be held at the historic Gallier City Hall, where members will be greeted by Mrs. Robert G. Robinson, Chairman of the New Orleans Committee, and the Acting Mayor. Following the meeting members will be taken on a guided bus tour of eight houses of the famous Garden District.

The twelfth annual reception and dinner will be held at the Roosevelt Hotel. Dumas Malone, Jefferson Memorial Professor of the University of Virginia, author, editor, and distinguished biographer of Jefferson, will talk of the third president's role in the Louisiana Purchase, and what Jefferson means in our world today.

Members of Boards of Architectural Review plan to hold an early breakfast meeting Sunday morning at which Samuel Wilson, Jr., who was appointed to serve as chairman pro tem, will preside. At that time members will vote on a constitution which is being drafted by Jacob Morrison.

Sunday an all-day guided tour of the River Road plantations is scheduled. Members will be the guests of Mrs. Matilda Gray for cocktails at *Evergreen*; and Mrs. Andrew Stewart is receiving at *Oak Allee*, where lunch will be served under the famous oaks.

For those who wish to stay over Monday and can provide their own transportation by private car or by plane to New Iberia, there will be a preview of *The Shadows on the Bayou Teche*, where coffee and sandwiches will be served from noon until dusk.

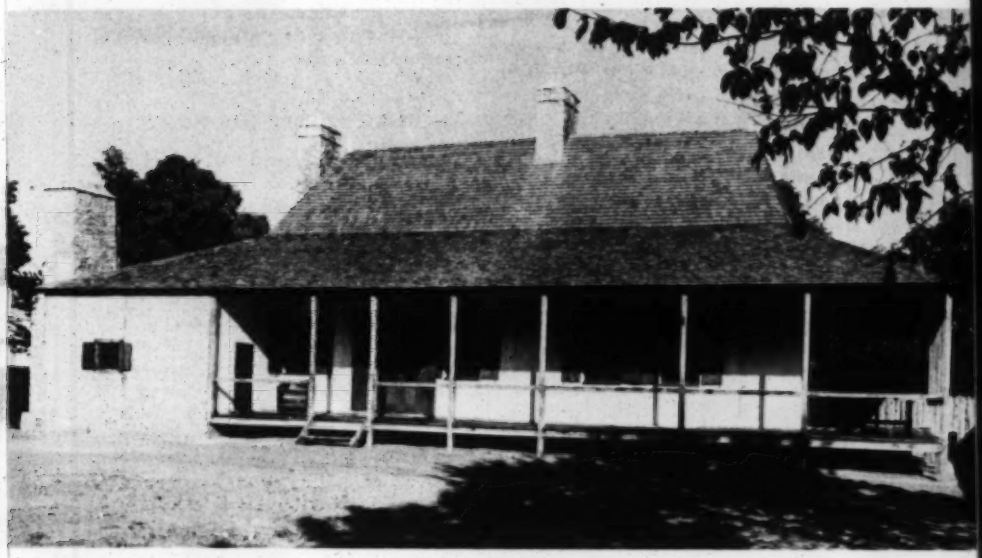
About 450 members and delegates from member organizations are expected to attend.

Bolduc House

Restoration of the Bolduc house, a late eighteenth-century structure at Ste. Genevieve, Mo., has been completed by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Missouri. The house was purchased for the Society by the late Miss Mary Reber in 1949 for $5,000 from Miss Zoe Bolduc, a descendant of its builder, who was born in the house and had spent her life there. Charles van Ravenswaay, director of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, called the attention of the Missouri Colonial Dames to the Bolduc house when it was threatened with destruction. Fifteen thousand dollars went into repairs and rebuilding during the first three years after the house was acquired. A gift of $100,000 from Mrs. Harry B. Mathews, president of the Missouri Colonial Dames, made the restoration possible.

Ste. Genevieve, settled about 1750 by French-Canadians, is one of the oldest settlements in the upper Mississippi Valley. The trade in furs, agricultural products, and lead from nearby mines provided the basis for considerable wealth. By 1850 its commercial importance had faded and for almost a century the village remained a quiet and isolated farming center, preserving many of its Creole customs and traditions, and its early buildings. Today the village still possesses a remarkable group of early buildings, although it has experienced considerable recent growth as the largest lime producing-center in the world.

The Bolduc house in its present form was built about 1785, incorporating in the structure a smaller house built in 1770 on another site. Made of squared timbers set upright on a sill-and-stone foundation with a massive trussed roof, it reveals the French-Canadian background of its builder, Louis Bolduc.



Bolduc House

Most of the original material survives, and it is one of the few remaining early eighteenth-century Mississippi Valley houses.

The *galerie* enclosing the house on four sides, characteristic of early Ste. Genevieve construction, may be a West Indian importation. Into the northwest corner of the *galerie* a stone kitchen was built about 1820, its fireplace still retaining the original wooden lintel and the bake oven. Near the house were originally located various outbuildings, a garden and orchard, all enclosed within an eight-foot fence of cedar logs as protection from raiding Indians and the flow of cattle along the narrow streets. The fence and garden have been restored.

During the 1850's the original floors and ceiling were covered over, the roof design changed to a hip, and the two interior rooms and hall divided into smaller rooms. Restoration included the removal of these later additions and changes and returning the house to its earlier appearance. A few surviving pieces of Bolduc furniture are shown in the house, but most of the furnishings are French-Canadian, created in the same design and spirit as those which were made by Ste. Genevieve Creole craftsmen. Many essential pieces are still lacking which will eventually be added to the house.

The architectural restoration and reconstruction was directed by Dr. E. A. Connally, associate professor of Architecture, University of Illinois. Charles van Ravenswaay served as general consultant throughout the project and, with Charles Nagel, director of the St. Louis City Art Museum, selected the furnishings.

LOUISE E. DU PONT CROWNINSHIELD

The great loss occasioned by the recent death of Louise E. du Pont Crowninshield, vice chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is shared by the Trust with the innumerable persons and organizations who counted her as close friend and champion of their causes.

Long an active preservationist, historian, and gardener, she took an absorbing interest in projects of this type throughout the United States. Among the historic houses whose restoration and refurnishing she directed are the Derby, Pingree, and Pierce-Nichols houses in Salem; and the Lee Mansion in Marblehead. She served as regent and later trustee of Kenmore in Fredericksburg, as a member of the board of the Marblehead Historical Society and the Essex Institute, as well as fulfilling a similar capacity for the Peabody Museum. When the White House was refurnished, during the presidency of Harry S. Truman, Mrs. Crowninshield served on the Commission of Fine Arts' advisory committee.

A recipient of many awards, Mrs. Crowninshield was given the George McAneny Historic Preservation Medal in 1947 by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society. In 1950, the Achievement Medal of the Garden Club of America, of which she had been vice president, was bestowed upon her. To commemorate Mrs. Crowninshield's great interest in the National Trust, a committee has been formed to institute an annual National Trust award in her name and memory. It is the hope of the National Trust that this award will serve constantly to remind its members and friends of the unselfish services of a devoted benefactor and friend.

Her wise guidance, her analytical mind, her warm humor, and her love aided the National Trust and its officers in generous abundance, from the early beginnings twelve years ago down to the last months of her long and dedicated life.

—R. H. H.

HEADQUARTERS NEWS

William J. Murtagh, who was first director of historic preservation in Bethlehem, Pa., was named assistant to the president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation by the Executive Committee, his term of duty beginning September 2. Formerly of Philadelphia, Mr. Murtagh was executive director of the Annie S. Kemerer Museum and executive secretary of Historic Bethlehem, Inc. During his two years in the city he led a membership drive which enrolled more than 1300 persons in Historic Bethlehem, Inc.

The new executive has a degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. He was employed for several years by architectural firms in Philadelphia and by the National Park Service in the Independence National Historic Park project. Mr. Murtagh studied at Bonn and Freiburg in Germany under the Fulbright program and has a masters degree in art history from the University of Pennsylvania. He is completing his doctoral dissertation for the University of Pennsylvania, having carried on research in Germany and Switzerland for his study of the architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans.

Mrs. Murtagh is the former Louise Morton, a daughter of Professor and Mrs. Richard L. Morton of Williamsburg, Va. Mrs. Murtagh has a B. A. degree in fine arts from the College of William and Mary and advanced degrees in art history from the University of Pennsylvania. She studied painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia; the Barnes Foundation, Merion, Pa.; and the Art Students League, New York City.

Outer Space

Ten million dollars is now being spent in the extension of the Capitol's East Front to gain 32½ additional feet which, according to the Architect of the Capitol, is essential to meet the required "space expansion in the Capitol." This construction is being supplemented by a new $23.4 million Senate Office Building now nearing completion; a $1.2 million House parking garage being built in the Old House Office Building courtyard; an $839,000 cafeteria being constructed in the courtyard of the New House Office Building; a $64 million Third House Office Building, the foundation of which is underway; and under it all—the rebuilding of the Tiber Creek sewer at $1.3 million.

On August 15 the Senate bill to prevent the East Front extension was defeated, after an hour of debate. The bill had been pending on the Senate floor since last March, when it was approved by the unanimous vote of the Senate Public Works Committee, after public hearings. Before the final vote Sen. Joseph S. Clark, Jr. (D-Pa.), on behalf of himself and Senators A. Willis Robertson (D-Va.), Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), Clifford P. Case (R-N. J.), Harry Flood Byrd (D-Va.), Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.), H. Alexander Smith (R.-N. J.), Ralph E. Flanders (R-Vt.), and J. Glenn Beall (R-Md.), amended the blocking bill to divert funds already appropriated for the extension to repairs on the present sandstone facade and portico.

Voting to permit the East Front extension were:

Democrats (23): Anderson (N. M.), Carroll (Colo.), Church (Idaho), Hayden (Ariz.), Hill (Ala.), Johnson (Tex.), Johnston (S. C.), Jordan (N. C.), Kefauver (Tenn.), Kennedy (Mass.), Kerr (Okla.), Long (La.), Magnuson (Wash.), Mansfield (Mont.), McClellan (Ark.), Monroney (Okla.), Morse (Ore.), Russell (Ga.), Smathers (Fla.), Sparkman (Ala.), Stennis (Miss.), Symington (Mo.), Yarborough (Tex.).

Republicans (24): Aiken (Vt.), Bennett (Utah), Bricker (Ohio), Bridges (N. H.), Bush (Conn.), Butler (Md.), Carlson (Kan.), Case (S. D.), Curtis (Neb.), Dirksen (Ill.), Hickenlooper (Iowa), Hoblitzell (W. Va.), Hruska (Neb.), Jenner (Ind.), Knowland (Calif.), Kuchel (Calif.), Malone (Nev.), Martin (Iowa), Mundt (S. D.), Purtell (Conn.), Schoeppel (Kan.), Thye (Minn.), Wiley (Wisc.), Young (N. D.).

Paired: O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.), Murray (D-Mont.), Eastland (D-Miss.), Frear (D-Del.), Saltonstall (R-Mass.).

Opposing the East Front extension were:

Democrats (15): Byrd (Va.), Chavez (N. M.), Clark (Pa.), Douglas (Ill.), Ellender (La.), Ervin (N. C.), Fulbright (Ark.), Gore (Tenn.), Green (R. I.), Hennings (Mo.), McNamara (Mich.), Neuberger (Ore.), Pastore (R. I.), Proxmire (Wisc.), Robertson (Va.).

Republicans (17): Allott (Colo.), Barrett (Wyo.), Beall (Md.), Capehart (Ind.), Case (N. J.), Cooper (Ky.),

District of Columbia firemen assist photographers in securing pictures of the pediment sculpture on the East Front portico. Made with a stereoscopic camera, the three-dimensional photographs will be used as a guide in the construction of the East Front extension.

Cotton (N. H.), Dworshak (Idaho), Goldwater (Ariz.), Langer (N. D.), Morton (Ky.), Potter (Mich.), Revercomb (W. Va.), Smith (Me.), Smith (N. J.), Watkins (Utah), Williams (Del.).

Paired: Lausche (D-Ohio), Bible (D-Nev.), Humphrey (D-Minn.), Thurmond (D-S. C.), Flanders (R-Vt.).

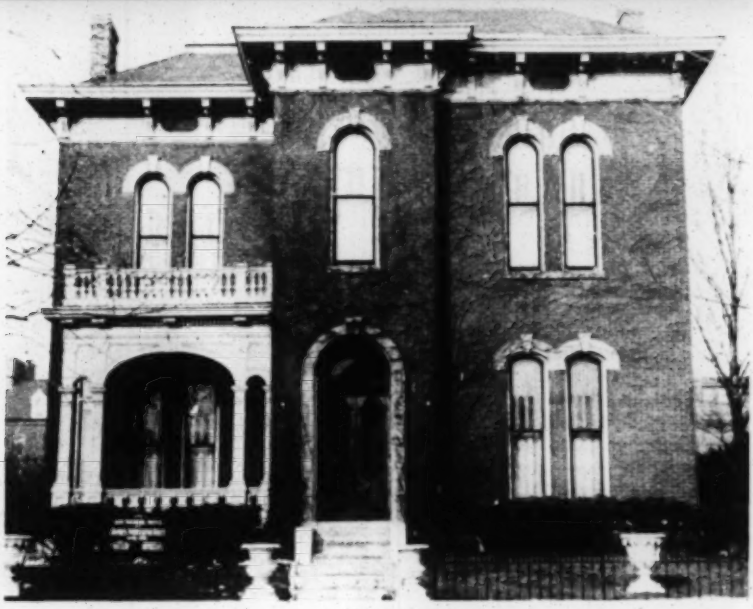
The American Institute of Architects at its annual convention in Cleveland on July 10 reaffirmed its opposition to planned alterations of the East Front. Delegates went on record 225 to 49 against the construction of a 32½-foot extension of the Capitol. Delegates, selected by chapters in every state, represented the Institute's nearly 13,000 members. The vote came after 2½ hours of debate that saw architects under contract to prepare plans for the extension make an effort to have the Institute reverse its traditional position against the alterations. In taking the action the A.I.A. adopted a resolution proposed by its board of directors. The policy statement called on Congress to "restore and preserve" the famous structure in its present location. Speakers opposing the extension included Carl Feiss, L. M. Leisenring, Julian Berla, Ralph Walker, Marcellus Wright, Jr., Turpin Bannister, and Cyrus E. Silling.

The East Front, originally designed by Dr. William Thorton, redesigned by Benjamin H. Latrobe, and constructed of sandstone in 1824 when Bulfinch was architect of the Capitol, will be rebuilt of marble to match the Senate and House wings. The first phase of the project was the erection of scaffolding to allow marble workers to take measurements, make molds of the carvings and architectural details, and remove certain portions, "so they can be reproduced precisely."

The design for the sculpture on the pediment was determined by competition in 1825. A premium was offered, probably at the suggestion of President John Quincy Adams. According to Bulfinch, "About 30 persons presented 36 designs, but none answered the President's idea of a suitable decoration for a legislative building. He disclaimed all wish to exhibit triumphal cars and emblems of victory and all allusions to heathen mythology, and thought that the duties of the nation and its legislators should be expressed in an obvious and intelligent manner. After several attempts the following design by the Italian artist, Luigi Persico, was agreed upon: a figure of America occupies the center, her right arm resting on the shield supported by an altar or pedestal bearing the inscription, *July 4, 1776,* her left hand pointing to the figure of *Justice* who with unveiled face, is holding the scales and with the right hand presents an open scroll inscribed *Constitution, March 4, 1789.* On the right of the principal figure is the eagle and a figure of *Hope* resting on her anchor, with face and right hand uplifted—the whole intended to convey that while we seek justice we may hope for success. The figures are bold and gracefully portrayed."

Persico was commissioned to execute the statues that flank the East Front steps but did only the *Discovery* group that stands on the pedestal at the left. The *Rescue* group, at the right, was awarded eventually to Horatio Greenough. These statues and the Christopher Columbus door of bronze at the top of the East Front steps will be stored and used again.

The new East Front is to be completed for the next inauguration, January 20, 1961.



James Whitcomb Riley Home

Lockerbie Fair

Indianapolis is not unique—it too has its blighted neighborhoods. In Indianapolis, however, is a blighted area which *is* unique. It is an area around a street; a street which has been immortalized in poetry—Lockerbie Street.

Since the 1880's, Lockerbie Street has been famous as the home of James Whitcomb Riley. Riley was a poet of the people; his works recorded the daily diversions, the children at play, and the sights and sounds of a rapidly changing era. The house at 528 Lockerbie Street where Riley lived was built in 1872 by John Nickum. After Riley's death in 1916, the house was purchased by William Fortune, who held it until the incorporation of the Riley Memorial Foundation in 1921, which has since maintained the house and furnishings. Although the Riley Home has been retained in its original state, the houses in the surrounding area have been neglected. Although the Hoosier literary greats—Riley, Booth Tarkington, George Ade, Lew Wallace —once walked these streets, today the big trees are gone, the cobble stones have been replaced with asphalt, and the charm has faded.

In August, 1957, the Metropolitan Planning Department proposed the redevelopment of the four blocks which surround the Riley Home. The area would contain three separate, yet related projects: a memorial to Riley, a re-created "Main Street—1890," and a children's park and playground. All streets in the area would be closed to motorized traffic.

Reconstruction of Lockerbie Street would be undertaken with the original paved surfaces, installation of gas street lighting fixtures, and planting of trees along the street. Other "street furniture" of the period, such as ornamental hitching rings, and stone carriage steps, would be added. The houses on Lockerbie Street would be restored to their original condition and could be used, lived in, and played around. A children's library could be set up near

the day nursery already on the site; housing could be provided for the staff of Lockerbie Fair. This phase of the plan would be a living memorial to Riley.

At the south edge of the site, set back from the major street, would be a typical "Main Street" of the 1890's. Vacant store buildings of this era are found in great numbers around the site. Those buildings which are architecturally interesting could be moved onto the site, refinished, and set in operation again as shops and stores. An open-side summer trolley could be used to carry passengers around the site.

A children's park and play area, containing a small animal zoo, is to be the third part of Lockerbie Fair. The animals would be displayed in fanciful exhibits using characters and scenes from Riley's poems; play sculpture designed to provide a setting for a small child's "make-believe" world would be featured in the play area.

Indiana's sesquicentennial in 1966 is proposed for the opening of Lockerbie Fair, and with the backing of the Jaycees and other civic groups, the Metropolitan Planning Department hopes that a nonprofit corporation will be set up to raise funds, supervise construction, and maintain the development.

Lockerbie Fair will preserve a part of Indianapolis' architectural heritage and recapture something of the spirit of the poet, the street, and the time.

—Wendell W. Phillips, Jr.
Metropolitan Planning Department
of Marion County, Indiana

Architectural window detail on a frame house in the same block as the Riley house on Lockerbie Street.

LOCKERBIE STREET

Such a dear little street it is, nestled away
From the noise of the city and heat of the day,
In cool shady coverts of whispering trees,
With their leaves lifted up to shake hands with the breeze
Which in all its wide wanderings never may meet
With a resting-place fairer than Lockerbie Street

There is such a relief, from the clangor and din
Of the heart of the town, to go loitering in
Through the dim, narrow walks with the sheltering shade
Of the trees waving over the long promenade
And littering lightly the ways of our feet
With the gold of the sunshine of Lockerbie Street.

. . . O my Lockerbie Street! You are fair to be seen—
Be it noon of the day, or the rare and serene
Afternoon of the night—you are one to my heart,
And I love you above all the phases of art,
For no language could frame and no lips repeat
My rhyme-haunted raptures of Lockerbie Street.

—James Whitcomb Riley

PRESERVATION AS SEEN BY A PROFESSOR

Speech by John Coolidge, Professor of Fine Arts and Director of Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, at the Rhode Island Preservation Seminar, May 10, 1958, under auspices of Heritage Foundation of Rhode Island, Newport Historical Society, Preservation Society of Newport County, Providence Preservation Society, The Rhode Island Historical Society, with the co-operation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

As a professor and an art museum director, I wonder what to say to an organization devoted to the preservation of historic buildings. Considering the pretensions of universities, no institutions have been less perceptive about our architecture; not a single college interior has survived intact from the colonial period. No group has done more to destroy historic buildings than art museum directors. I feel like one lone cannibal at a convocation of missionaries.

I will not pretend that universities have seen the light and desecration by museums is over. Last year Harvard tried to tear down its most famous 19th century building. Recently I toured a growing museum and was shown where the facade of a historic house is to be erected. In another spot the stairway of that house is to be set up, and in other places bits and pieces of panelling are to be put up. Centuries ago prominent criminals were hung, drawn, and quartered, their heads set on pikes over the city gates, their hearts cut out and exposed, and their mangled torsi left hanging on the gibbet. Art museum directors are still doing this to historic buildings.

I cannot justify and I won't propose to belittle such barbarism. I can only reflect on why it takes place.

The preservation of historic buildings is an almost universal problem—the American way of meeting that problem is unique, in two respects. Only in this country is preservation almost wholly a local responsibility; only in this country is preservation almost wholly a private responsibility. I know of no other field in which America is so devoted to decentralization and free enterprise, and in which virtually everyone else is centralized and socialist.

As a result, more people in this country take an active and responsible part in preservation than anywhere else in the world. In Austria, 90 people—all the architects, metal-workers, plasterers, photographers, and painters who restore the buildings, as well as those who decide which buildings shall be preserved—are responsible for maintaining the whole national architectural heritage. The staff of France's *Monuments Historiques* numbers only a few hundred, whereas the five societies represented here have 2500 members. The total number of active architectural preservers in this country must run into many thousands, if not into several tens of thousands.

Our reaction is to feel proud. This is the democratic way to do the job, but the more one thinks about it, the more surprising it becomes. Compared to France, Italy, or England, our architectural heritage is limited, our great monuments few, our buildings small. It is odd that this country, which is proud of its efficiency and which seems to have the easiest preservation problem, should devote the greatest amount of collective energy to the solution of that problem. The answer to this paradox is obvious—in this country the forces of destruction are more virulent than they are anywhere else.

Our favorite myths prove that fact. What is the prime architectural consequence of the Horatio Alger ideal? It is the deserted farm. What does

"three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves" mean in terms of preservation? It means a great mansion that the family can't afford to maintain and that nobody wants to buy. America is the land of the free—or almost free—white elephant. Necessarily it is also the home of the brave Preservation Society. A flexible society, a mobile society, equality of opportunity, these are our beloved objectives, but we have had to pay for them by architectural destruction—or we have had to so far.

The reason is that we have never found a way to integrate these cherished ideals and our respect for ancient things—we have juxtaposed the two. We oppose to the inevitable fluidity of the present, a dream-image of an immutable past. Much of the drive to preserve is the result of a desire to make this image concrete. We set up a Pioneer Village; we re-create Colonial Williamsburg.

There are few places I find more enjoyable than Colonial Williamsburg, yet we must recognize that re-creation is not the same as preservation. It is possible that these romantic reconstructions of the past have actually done the cause of preservation harm.

They divert resources. Private funds are limited. It cost millions to take a print one inch high and build from it full scale reconstructions of the Capitol and the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg. Those millions could have preserved a Newcastle, Delaware; a Marblehead; a Portsmouth; or a Newburyport forever. They would have saved permanently a hundred historic houses. Which is more important, a genuine old building saved, or a modern dream of the past made concrete?

More harmful is the false emphasis on preservation which the romantic dream of the past causes. It leads us to save the wrong things; too often we squander our efforts on historical sentimentality and let genuine works of art disappear.

By any international standard the most important New England architect was Henry Hobson Richardson, and one of his greatest achievements was his series of railroad stations. Most of these are suburban railroad stations for commuters which are doomed. They have no romantic escapist appeal and there is no interest in saving them. Although they are great architecture they haven't even been adequately photographed. Are we going to ignore them in our efforts to re-create Clarke Street, or restore that magnificent wreck Shirley Place?

Preservation is a difficult and highly practical business. I am a professor living in an ivory tower. Although it is not for me to tell you what should be done, I wonder if other peoples' experiences cannot help us.

Two things in Italy especially impress me. The parts which I visited several years ago were prosperous and there was a great deal of new building. Little of it was private houses. Today the successful Italian industrialist does not build himself a new house—he buys an old one. The government makes it worthwhile to buy and maintain a national monument. The Italian who cares for a valuable old house, just like the Englishman or the Austrian under the same conditions, reaps financial benefits. Something similar could be worked out here. Nothing could give a healthier impetus to the preservation movement in America today than tax deductions granted responsible individuals.

This scheme works in Italy because it fits in so well with the Italian temperament. Great Italian industrialists, like Count Volpi or Count Cini, enjoy their titles; they enjoy living in ancient palaces and villas.

This led to a second observation—in Italy there are almost no ruins. Ruins have been one of the stock romantic props in Europe for two hundred years —the abbeys of Scotland, the Rhine castles of the robber barons, and since the war the decaying homes of England. There is no Italian parallel; Italians hate ruins. Their instinct is to adapt. They turn the Temple of Jupiter Capitalinus into the Roman city hall, the Theâter of Marcellus into the Palazzo Orsini, and the Palatine into a cardinal's villa. Italy's ruins were created by foreigners. It has taken one hundred years of the combined efforts of German, French, Swedish, English, and American archaeologists to remove some of the accretions, to tear down the palaces, to dig up the gardens, and to expose in Rome a handful of ancient ruins in all their useless fragmentary nakedness. The Italians created only one prominent ruin—they blew up the Parthenon in the middle of the 17th century. Only one prominent Italian liked ruins for their own sake—Mussolini.

Americans don't like ruins either. Our instinct is to destroy or restore, but unlike the Italians we do not adapt. When I discussed the problem of Richardson's railroad stations with Abbott Cummings, he said, "We must photograph them all. We must 'preserve' one or two of the best. The rest of them will just have to go." That is the instinctive reaction all of us have.

Why are there only two alternatives? It is possible to adapt. It is possible to make the good better, even to make the great greater. The Cathedral of Florence is better because it now includes a campanile designed by Giotto which was not part of the original scheme. The Louvre was a rather chaotic royal palace until the 19th century when Napoleon III more than doubled its size, making it the headquarters of his government, a combination of the White House, the Capitol and the Pentagon. Finally, the French Republic turned the whole thing into a museum. With each change the building, as a building, was improved. The ideal solution for the Richardson railroad stations is not to create a couple of museums and let the rest go but to save most of them by turning some into filling stations, some into super markets, and some into restaurants. What fun it would be to have a super market that was not plate glass and chromium spinach, or a restaurant that did not look like a tavern or a Tea Shoppe—a restaurant that was a cross between a Ratskeller and a stage set for Parsifal!

People who live in ivory towers should not gaze into crystal balls. I am concerned with preservation as a living force in the present. The great lesson to be learned from Europe is that preservation is artistically creative. The nations which have pulled down their abbeys and let their stately homes decay are the nations which have been the most sterile artistically. The nations which have turned their temples into churches, their abbeys into boarding schools, and their palaces into hotels—the nations which have respected and adapted their own past, notably Italy and France—these are nations which for hundreds of years have retained their artistic vitality.

As yet America has achieved no firm attitude towards its own architectural heritage. It has merely shown tendencies. It is quite likely that in our own generation a national attitude will crystallize. I hope that this tradition will not be compounded of sentimental romantic escapism and ruthless disregard. I hope it will be based on sensitive enthusiasm for what we have received and on an uninhibited imagination in adapting our heritage to the solution of our contemporary problems.

—Abstract by T. B.

"STRAWBERY BANKE"

Through the efforts of many Portsmouth, N. H., residents, the area of that city's earliest settlement and the remaining buildings contained therein is about to be saved. Settlement was evident as early as the 1630's on the site of the present city. A petition of 1653 explains the origin of the name for this new restoration project:

"And whereas the name of this plantation at present being Strawbery Banke accidentally so called by a reson of a banke where straberries was found in this place, Now your petitioners humble desire is to have it called Portsmouth, beinge a name most sutable for this place, it beinge the River's mouth & a good harbour as any in this land. . . ."

By the cooperation of the Mayor and City Council, the Chamber of Commerce and interested individuals such as Mrs. William White Howells, Chairman of the Committee on Historic Preservation in Portsmouth, the National Trust has worked to engender local enthusiasm to support the project.

This latest preservation movement comes about through a proposed urban renewal program of the city financed by a local bond issue in order that supplementary federal government funds may be accepted. Thus, the federal government will take the land in the Marcy-Washington Streets area, raze it with the exception of the four or five historic structures located there, and return the land to the city. At this juncture, the Advisory Committee to the City Council, comprised of a representative from all organizations in the city and to be known as *Strawbery Banke, Portsmouth, N. H.*, will issue public stock to buy back the area from the city, restore the remaining buildings, and perhaps transfer back to this area other historic structures which would be otherwise destroyed by progress. They also propose to sell some of the structures, "under proper restriction, so that it becomes a much sought-after place in which to live and an area from which the city still receives a tax return, not to mention the added attraction of beauty and historic interest which the program will create for the city."

MEMBERSHIP

There have been nine new member organizations since June 1958:

Castle Hill Foundation (Mass.); Vachel Lindsay House Fund (Ill.); Radnor Historical Society (Pa.); Wisconsin History Foundation; National Society of Colonial Dames (D. C.); Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society (Miss.); Schenectady County Historical Society (N. Y.); Foundation for Historic Christ Church (Va.); Loudoun County Historical Society (Va.).

HOW ONE SOCIETY DOES IT

"For its program devoted to the preservation of a true account of the beginnings of the American Way of Life, emphasizing the firm conviction and perseverance of our forebears in their quest for individual liberties," the King of Prussia Historical Society, King of Prussia, Pa., was presented the 1958 Freedom Foundation Award.

Organized in 1955, the King of Prussia Historical Society, under the leadership of Robert D. May, M.D., is not a collection agency; it is primarily an educational and cultural organization. The educational endeavors for the community include the preparation of historical exhibits during Upper Merion weeks; distribution of reprints throughout the community about historic buildings and historic preservation; and publication of a guidebook of the area, *Here America Began.* (The Welsh came to Upper Merion Township in the 1680's; the

Swedish trappers came earlier.) A humorous one-page monograph, *Don't Kick An Old House When It's Down*, was published for distribution to the local school children in an attempt to discourage vandalism and encourage respect for others' property. The Society holds four meetings a year, two of which feature national speakers; all meetings are open to the public without admission fee. *Welcome to Upper Merion*, distributed by the Welcome Wagon, summarizes the history of the area and invites new members to join the local historical society.

The Upper Merion Planning Commission is assisted by a survey conducted by the Society in 1956. Guided by an 1848 map of the Township, workers located 246 sites and buildings constructed before 1850; of these 182 buildings remain and are largely still in use.

The Society works with the Upper Merion Township Supervisors, the Upper Merion Township School Board, and the Upper Merion Park and Playground Commission in an attempt to relate parks and planning to the preservation of old buildings. Students from the Upper Merion Public High School are laboring under direction on the re-creation of the Roberts School, built in 1848 for the use of children of mill workers in the early days of the community. The Society has encouraged the preservation and use of the old Union School and the Stewart Fund Hall as a Township library and Township building. A million-dollar shopping area adjacent to the proposed new Township center will utilize colonial design throughout.

The economic advantages of preservation have long been a theme of the King of Prussia Historical Society, which recently received recognition from the Upper Merion Chamber of Commerce and civic associations. An 8 mm. movie, 20 minutes in length with sound track, shows the historic houses of the area and describes the advantages of good historic preservation. A second edition is in progress. The films are used by public groups to acquaint citizens with Upper Merion's heritage.

Cultural endeavors of the organization are the fall house and garden tours to historic houses of Upper Merion; the candlelight concert series of eighteenth-century music on eighteenth-century instruments in eighteenth-century houses; the publication of the *Pechin Primer*, the story of the Roberts School, written by a former teacher in the school; publication of the *King of Prussia Cookbook;* a quarterly, the King of Prussia *Gazette* (patterned after the 1799 Norristown *Gazette*); and Upper Merion Note Paper with sketches of significant historical buildings in the area.

A library and consultation services are offered individuals who are restoring an old house. Members of the Society are available for speaking engagements throughout the state.

The Society was able to help modify a legislative bill before passage to delete a clause which would have required that the King of Prussia Inn be sold and moved or destroyed by the Highway Department.

Two outstanding students of history in the local high school were awarded scholarships this year to a course in pioneer living at Cooperstown, N. Y. Future plans include an educational program for young people, "Week End with the Past." This program will take children of different ages with appropriate adult leadership and permit them to spend a week end in a restored farmhouse as a family, sleeping on a feather bed, cooking the family meals in the fireplace, chopping the wood, and doing other household chores which children of the past accepted as their responsibility.

Audubon Houses

Efforts of preservationists, as well as conservationists, have made John James Audubon, early nineteenth-century artist and ornithologist, one of the most popular naturalists of America.

Mill Grove Farm, Audubon, Pa., the first American home of Audubon, was acquired in 1951 by the Montgomery County Commissioners. The original 1762 house has been restored as a museum and the farm and adjoining land are used as a wildlife sanctuary. Although Audubon lived at *Mill Grove* only two years, it was from trips to the forests surrounding the plantation that he gained his first impression of American birds and animals. The artist's father, Jean Audubon, a retired sea captain, acquired *Mill Grove* in 1789 after fleeing from San Domingo during a slave insurrection. In 1804 he turned the property over to his 19-year-old son, John James, who came from France with instructions to develop the lead mines on the property. These old workings today still interest mineralogists who visit the property. Young Audubon, however, was far more interested in wildlife than in minerals, and spent a great deal of his time hunting, painting, and roaming the wooded hills along the Perkiomen and the Schuylkill. In 1813 Audubon moved to Kentucky, having married a neighbor, Lucy Bakewell. *Mill Grove* was sold to Samuel Wetherill of Philadelphia, whose descendants owned and preserved it until its sale to the Montgomery County Commissioners.

One of the first museums to Audubon was built in 1936 by W.P.A. funds in Henderson, Ky., where the couple lived for seven years and where their second son, John Woodhouse, was born. Here Audubon entered the sawmill and gristmill business; when both ventures failed, he was pursued by his creditors and put in jail.

The White-Crowned Pigeon in *Cordia Sebeste* Audubon, 1833, is plate [illegible] in 7

Cordia Sebestena tree, water color by John James Audubon, plate [illegible] in *The Birds of America*.

Oakley, the three-story 1799 house with gallery where Audubon stayed in West Feliciana Parish, is part of the Audubon Memorial State Park, St. Francisville, La., owned by the State of Louisiana and administered by the State Parks and Recreation Commission. In 1820 Audubon left his family in Cincinnati, determined to paint all the birds of America. In New Orleans he made studies of game birds brought to the French Market, earning his livelihood by painting portraits. Depressed and almost penniless, he was persuaded by Mrs. Lucy Pirrie to return to her plantation, near the Bayou Sara, where she paid him $60 a month to tutor her daughter Eliza, allowing half of his time to be spent painting the birds of Feliciana.

Audubon wrote in his journal in June 1821:

> We arrived at the landing at the mouth of the bayou on a hot sultry day, bid adieu to our fellow-passengers, climbed the hill at St. Francisville. . . . The aspect of the country was entirely new to me, and distracted my mind from those objects which are the occupation of my life. The rich magnolias covered with fragrant blossoms, the holly, the beech, the tall yellow poplar, the hilly ground and even the red clay, all excited my admiration. Such an entire change in the fact of nature in so short a time seems almost supernatural; and surrounded once more by numberless warblers and thrushes, I enjoyed the scene. . . .

The arrangement with Mrs. Pirrie proved difficult and in October, after only four months, he left *Oakley*. In this brief time, he had painted 32 of his bird pictures, including the vivid Carolina parrots and the mocking birds, the latter causing much criticism because it was thought that rattlesnakes did not climb trees.

He returned to New Orleans and in his journal left descriptions of the various residences he occupied, one of which was "in Barracks Street near the corner of that and Royal Street—between Two Shops of Grocers and divided from them and our Yellow

Landlady by Mere Board Partitions. . . ." Another entry records the rental of a house at 505 Dauphine Street. In the *Vieux Carré* and restored as a private residence, the cottage will be open to members of the National Trust during the annual meeting.

Audubon's headquarters at Key West, while he worked on the Florida flower series, was endangered during the winter of 1957, when it was put up for sale. The house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Wolfson of Miami, who plan to restore it as a museum. It was built by Captain Geiger, an erstwhile pirate who reformed when he married, built the house, and became a leader in the community, entertaining the notables who visited Key West. From the Geiger house Audubon went up and down the Tortugas, through the Florida Keys, and up into the Everglades bringing back specimens to Key West and there doing his paintings. From the window of his room, he painted the Key West pigeon in a tree with bright orange-red flowers. This tree was the *Cordia Sebestena,* but ever since Audubon's picture it has been known as the Geiger flower.

It was from St. Francisville in 1823 that Audubon set out for Philadelphia to arrange publication of his works. His efforts failed and in May 1826 he sailed from New Orleans to Liverpool, where the engravings for *The Birds of America* were prepared by Robert Havell. This edition, printed on elephant paper, consisted of 87 numbers of five plates each, or 435 copperplate engravings, colored by hand, and representing 1065 life-sized figures of 489 distinct species of birds. It was considered the largest book that was ever printed; it was sold in America for $1000.

The naturalist-artist died at *Minnie's Land* in his sixty-ninth year. When he had returned to America in 1841 to work on the "miniature edition" of *The Birds,* he purchased the estate on the Hudson River near the city and named it to honor his wife (minnie is a Scottish term for mother). A committee made an effort to raise money to buy and preserve the house on *Minnie's Land,* but the venture was unsuccessful and the building was torn down years ago.

The Audubon societies' search for headquarters occasionally results in the preservation of old houses, although they were never associated with Audubon. The Rhode Island Audubon Society, with the help of the Providence Preservation Society, recently found, purchased, and restored a 15-room, late nineteenth-century house. The Society felt that a Victorian house would best fit its needs in providing offices, reference library, shop, and meeting rooms for senior and junior educational programs. Ten rooms were furnished in the 1850 tradition at a total cost of $48.67. The response for requests for furnishings was overwhelming, since people found Victorian furniture too large to use and were glad to be able to place what they had.

To provide suitable headquarters for the local Audubon Society, the Marin County Conservation League, Calif., recently raised $250,000 to restore a century-old house after moving it from its Strawberry Point foundation by a half-mile barge trip to its future site at Rogers Beach. John Reed, described by some historians as Marin's first resident, built the home for his daughter, Hilarita, and her husband, Dr. Benjamin Lyford, at the time of their marriage in 1858.

The great conservation program carried out in the name of Audubon was begun in 1886 by George Bird Grinnell, editor of *Forest and Stream* and a former pupil of Madame Audubon, when he gave the name Audubon Society to a group aroused by the sale of songbirds for food. Resulting public opinion brought about the adoption in

most states of the model Audubon songbird protective laws. Writing in the 1820's, a time of abundance, Audubon had said, "the war of extermination cannot last many years more." Combating this war today are more than 30,000 individual members of the National Audubon Society (Audubon House, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York City) and more than 300 branches and affiliates with a combined membership of 50,000.

—T. B.

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

Hay-fever sufferers are the latest victims of the 41,000 mile federal highway program, according to scientists. A team from the University of Michigan states that the program may be the biggest boon to ragweed—and bane to hay-fever sufferers—in the history of the United States.

Professor Warren H. Wagner, the botanist on the team, explained that ragweed thrives in freshly exposed soil. Historic houses and wildlife areas are being plowed under and billions of tons of soil are being plowed up in the construction of new federal highways from coast to coast. The scientists believe that ragweed originally spread to the interior of America through highway construction. The plant is thought to have originated in the Washington area, then spread along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and then across the continent via the soft shoulders of new roads. Although ragweed is often first on the scene in a newly exposed plot of earth, the investigators found that it does not stand a chance in fields where other plants are long established. "It's strange," Professor Wagner said, "but even if an animal like a gopher turns up some earth in digging a hole, ragweed always seems ready to move in."

All this, and billboards too!

—T. B.

HISTORICAL ADMINISTRATORS' SEMINAR

The National Trust, in conjunction with Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., proposes to offer a course of instruction in Williamsburg during the summer of 1959 which will train qualified graduate students in the administration and interpretation of historic sites, structures, and museums of local culture and history. The resources of Colonial Williamsburg will be at the students' disposal to study and evaluate problems confronting restoration and reconstruction programs. Morning seminars will be under the supervision of visiting authorities in addition to the personnel of the National Trust and Colonial Williamsburg. Students will investigate such problems as the creating of research programs, public relations, financing, and the various museological techniques attendant upon the keeping of historic structures and museums. Field trips will be taken to Richmond, Yorktown, Jamestown, and Newport News in order that students can observe at first hand how various institutions handle and solve the multifarious problems relating to this field.

—W. J. M.

Winter, one of the four seasons sculptures, in the garden of *The Shadows*.

Salt Lake City Hall 1870, rear facade

Salt Lake City Hall 1958, front facade

Salt Lake City Hall

The 1865 City Hall of Salt Lake City, Utah, erected at the then-fabulous cost of $70,000, may be restored as part of a $25 million improvement program for the area near the Utah State Capitol. The Nicholas G. Morgan Sr. Foundation is advancing its restoration as a stimulus to reclaim State and First South Streets as one of the most historic areas in the city. Restoration of the City Hall, despite its present deteriorated condition, is urged on the grounds of its outstanding historical and architectural importance.

Built in 1864, the City Hall served as the seat of local government for 30 years and also housed the judicial and legislative departments of the Territorial Government. For eight years after the Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, the Territorial Government had been largely theocratic; Brigham Young, president of the Mormon Church, was also governor and Indian agent by appointment of the President of the United States. Brigham Young's Beehive mansion served as the White House of Utah while he was governor, and all prominent visitors coming to the Utah Capital were entertained there. The Territorial Legislature met in the church-owned Council House.

In 1858, however, until 1896, the Utah Territory was governed by men from other states, appointed by the United States President. Since the people did not think well of the presidentially appointed governors and characterized them as "carpetbaggers," the Mayor of Salt Lake City and the City Council were the most important civil authorities in the Territory. Owing to threats of Civil War, the City Council of Salt Lake City decided in 1861 to build a city hall which was to be the first civic building in Utah not owned and controlled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In effect, until 1890 the City Hall was the capitol of the Territory.

Dedication ceremonies of the Hall on January 8, 1866, were attended by many persons, some coming long distances in covered wagons drawn by ox teams. Participating in the exercises were President Brigham Young, Governor Durkee, and Mayor Abraham Owen Smoot, father of former U. S. Senator Reed Smoot.

The Hall is sixty feet square, two stories high, and surmounted by a domed octagonal tower, rising on a square base from the center of the building. The front of the building is of cut stone and the other sides are of squared rock. A heavy cornice with elaborate brackets encircles the upper portion of the building and supports a balustrade around the entire structure. Over the principal entrance was an overhanging balcony, accessible from the upper hall. The rooms were richly carpeted and handsomely furnished; visitors frequently commented on the quality of the painting and the grained mahogany and root oak interiors. William H. Folsom, architect of the mid-nineteenth-century Mormon Tabernacle, was also architect of the City Hall.

The old City Hall, when new, was the scene of brilliant banquets and social occasions as well as important meetings. March 4, 1864, the second inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln, was a gala day in Salt Lake City. A parade a mile long passed the City Hall. That evening a great banquet was held in the Hall given by the municipal authorities for the officers from Camp Douglas and other notables, while outside a great display of fireworks was presented.

All laws enacted for the Territory were debated and passed upon in this building. One of the early laws in the United States enfranchising women

was passed here. Appropriations were made at the City Hall for the first building of the University of Utah, and the groundwork was laid for the development of the University as it stands today.

LEGISLATION

Bethlehem, Pa., received $112,595 in advance planning from the U. S. Housing and Home Finance Agency for redevelopment of its Monocacy Creek lowlands. This phase of the general program will clear the area of substandard housing, probably relocation of industry in the area, and some flood control measures. Historic restoration and preservation of sites in the Monocacy Basin which played a role in the early history of the community, founded by Moravians in 1741, will probably proceed in the area with the support of private capital from individuals and organized groups, including Historic Bethlehem, Inc.

On May 7, 1958, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved two acts involving the Historic Beacon Hill District in the City of Boston. The first of these, No. 315, extended the boundaries of the original protected district to include an addition to be known as "1A." There is a severability clause for this area which provides that decisions involving it in the future will not affect the original area. Act No. 314 enlarged the powers of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission, giving its control over the reconstruction, alteration, change in exterior color, or demolition of any exterior architectural feature in the controlled District.

The Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce is leading a program for the preservation of the "Old Town" section of this California gold rush town. Shortly after the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848, Claude Chana, three fellow Frenchmen, and 35 Indians set out for the Mill, camping en route by a stream known as the Auburn Ravine. There they struck such a rich lode that a boom town was born that was destined to become Auburn. By 1855 it boasted banks, a Wells Fargo office, a fire house, a Lawyers' Row, churches, hotels, a courthouse, and Chinatown. Among the famous hotels was the Orelans, one of the most luxurious in the Mother Lode. In September 1855 it boasted that it had attached "a bathroom to which boarders will have access weekly." Tentative plans call for preserving some of the century-old buildings still remaining in the "Old Town," and legislation requiring new architecture in the area to conform to that of the Gold Rush period. Sponsors of the plan state that Auburn and Placer County wish to complete a substantial phase of this program as a tourist attraction before 1960, when Winter Olympic Games will be held at nearby Squaw Valley.

Arizona State Parks Board, which has just been established, will devote its 1957-59 program to planning and

Auburn, Calif., 1855, is seen from Chinatown Hill. The "Old Town Post Office" is directly left of the flagpole and is still in use; the American Hotel, the tall building at the extreme left, is now the Shanghai Restaurant.

organization, according to a report from Dennis McCarthy, its director. It is expected that the majority of the parks to be established in the system will be prehistoric or historic in scope. As part of its advance planning the Board developed a *Criteria and Classification Plan*. One of the first projects to be developed will be the Tubac State Historical Monument, the nucleus of which will be the old Spanish Presidio; another will be the Yuma Territorial Prison. The University of Arizona is undertaking the historical investigation of the Tubac area for the Park Board.

Supported by the League of Women Voters, and nine other leading women's patriotic, professional, and civic groups, Historic Fredericksburg, Inc. appealed to the city officials of the historic Virginia city to consider historic values along with others in revising the city zoning plan. They also urged the City Planning Commission to rewrite the entire existing zoning law. They appointed a committee to investigate proposed changes in Sunken Road, a road and adjoining long stone wall that figured in the Civil War campaign around the city.

Headed by former Gov. Millard Caldwell, the recently organized Historical Homes Preservation Committee will determine which of the city's buildings have historical or architectural validity, structural soundness, and potential use for preservation or restoration. A program has been devised whereby significant houses can be maintained and used by private owners. The committee is seeking buyers for two old houses: one, built of handmade, sun-dried brick in 1835; the other, a frame, ante-bellum house which has been in the family of its builder for 122 years. "The important thing," according to Governor Caldwell, "is to get an inventory of these old places, put a mark on those worth saving, and suggest a use that will make it economically practical to save them—if and when private owners decide to dispose of them."

SHADOWS (*Continued from p. 73*)

Among others from whom we received letters, clippings, and gay reminiscences were M. A. Walcott, Milton B. Beckerman, and Francoise Mignon. One story from Miss Mignon, curator of *Melrose House*, tells of a "windswept lady from Texas" who had made the grand tour of the Louisiana and Mississippi Plantation country, and at the end of her tour summed up her impressions to Lyle Saxon by saying, "The ante-bellum town houses that made the greatest impression on me were two, *Stanton Hall* in Natchez and *Weeks Hall* in New Iberia—*Stanton Hall* for its bulk and *Weeks Hall* for its sheer beauty."

Wolcott told how often he and Saxon had enjoyed a hearty laugh at the expense of the lady from Texas who confused the name of the owner with the name of a residence, and how Weeks Hall never tired of relating how one lady found him to be one of the prettiest things in two states. Wolcott recanted, however, saying how simple and fundamental was the error where man and house have been so identified as to be almost interchangeable in the public mind. "The temple is worthy of the idol—the idol of the temple."

He concluded, "And finally comes this sobering thought—that perhaps in laughing, Lyle, Weeks, and I were wrong and the lady from Texas right, when she declared that in New Iberia in Weeks Hall she found one of the finest things in Louisiana."

To many of us Weeks Hall will always remain one of the grandest of the shadows on the Teche.

—H. D. B.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

"Operation Landmark" has swung into action as one of the latest projects of Historic Savannah. The objective is to raise $15,000 for the restoration of the Francis M. Stone House at 404 East State Street. The nineteenth-century frame residence facing Columbia Square, near the recently restored Davenport House, will be used as organization headquarters and some space will be rented. This is part of the group's long-range program for preserving the architectural character of Savannah's early squares.

A tenth anniversary meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities was held at the Sherwood-Jayne House in East Setauket. It was a preview of the opening of the house to the public as the first permanent exhibit. The early eighteenth-century building was bequeathed to the Society by its late owner, Howard G. Sherwood, who first restored it in 1908. Sherwood, who founded the Society some decades later, left it two other old houses (the three standing on about 100 acres) and $1 million endowment.

W. F. McCaughey, A.I.A., was architect of the recent restoration of the old firehouse (1838) on Bench Street in Galena, Ill. This was one of the major projects of the Galena Historical Society for 1958. McCaughey contributed the plans and architectural supervision, as well as part of the $2000 restoration budget. An early pumper is on display but a complete fitting-out of the firehouse as a museum of early firefighting is planned.

The North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities is sponsoring a contest for the best photographs of historic sites, buildings, and objects, according to recent announcements from the new president, Mrs. Ernest L. Ives. Another project of the current year has been the loan of $2000 to the Beaufort County Historical Society for the purchase of the Marsh house in Bath. The historic 1744 house and 40 acres of land were acquired at a cost of $31,000, of which the state gave $10,000, county of Beaufort $3,500, owners of the house $500, and friends in and out of the state the major sum of $14,200. Funds for restoration and maintenance are now being raised.

In the 1957 annual report of the Girl Scouts of America, recently released as House Document No. 362 of the 85th Congress, 2nd Session, is a report on the first year's operation of the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace in Savannah, Ga. The restored regency house, where the founder of Scouting was born, had more than 13,000 visitors. Girl Scout troops who visit the house have the daytime use of the remodeled servants' quarters of the mansion, where they cook meals. The Birthplace also serves the Savannah community by making its assembly rooms available for meetings of other organizations.

Mrs. Ralph W. Newland, Curator General of the Museum of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is leading a ticket as President-General of the organization, which will hold its 68th Continental Congress in April. During her administration extensive improvements were made in the Museum and a number of valuable items added to the collections on display in the period State Rooms and general museum section.

The success of the Historical Society of Talbot County in acquiring the Stevens House on Washington St., Easton, Md., was described by James W. Foster of the Maryland Historical Society as "a shot in the arm for those other county historical societies striving to get their feet on the ground by finding a home." The purchase price of the house, $20,500, was raised by a bond-selling scheme. Those who did not wish to make outright contributions

were invited to buy bonds issued against the purchase of the house, bearing 1 per cent interest and redeemable in 10 years. The bonds were issued in $100 denominations and were first mortgage bonds. Now the members of the Society and the Talbot County Garden Club, which contributed to the restoration fund and makes and sells beeswax and bayberry candles made in old molds, small potted plants and shrubs for its benefit, share the house. The next project will be finding suitable furnishings.

Howard National Steamboat Museum was formally dedicated on May 18. Since that time, in addition to being open to visitors, the house has been used for many meetings and parties by cultural organizations which have contributed to the operation's support. One of the long-range projects of the Museum is to convert a section of the carriage house into a dining room where meals reflecting the era and cuisine of the "floating palaces" of Mississippi River fame will be served. These will be based on a vast archive of material on steamboating now being cataloged at Indiana University. Literally tons (five of them) of material are being organized. The Museum also has an extensive collection of relics, steamboat models, drawings, original pictures of the famous boats built by the Howards, silverware from famous boats, and furniture with carved monograms.

Next year the proceeds of Historic Garden Week, sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia, will be devoted to the restoration of the gardens at the Adam Thoroughgood House in Princess Anne County. Garden Week in 1958 was the second largest in the 25 years of the program and netted a financial return of almost $40,000.

In gratitude for his major contribution in saving the most important buildings in Wurzburg, Germany, John Davis Skilton, Jr., of Fairfield, Conn., was awarded the Order of Merit, First Class, the highest West German decoration. The National Trust Life Member was presented the award on behalf of President Theodore Heuss of the Federal Republic of Germany, for his "wonderful and courageous work" at a ceremony held this summer at his residence. Mr. Skilton was an officer of the Monuments and Fine Arts Section of the U. S. Army, which had the task of preserving historic buildings and works of art in war-ravaged Europe. The French government also honored him with the Cross of the Legion of Honor as a token of that country's gratitude, particularly in saving the Calvaire in Plougas-Daoulas in Brittany. Ironically, as vice president of the Bridgeport Historical Society, he led an unsuccessful effort to save the Harral-Wheeler House. The campaign was waged against city officials who had been elected to office on a platform of preserving this great monument of the Gothic revival which had been bequeathed to the city. His historical society reported both items under the heading "Prophet without Honor."

Washington Irving's home, *Sunnyside* in Tarrytown, N. Y., where he lived from 1835 until his death in 1859, is currently being restored to that period by Sleepy Hollow Restorations. Under the direction of A. Lawrence Kocher, A.I.A., a service wing added in 1896 will be removed. It will be replaced by a reconstruction of Irving's modest picture gallery, two small pantries, laundry room, back porch, and a section of the Gothic porch on the north side of the house. Also to be developed will be a reconstruction of a kitchen yard with ice house, wood house, root cellar, and other outbuildings of this famous Hudson River estate. The house and its 18 acres of grounds will be open to the public during the renovation period and aspects of the

restoration will be shown to the visitors.

The bicentennial celebration of the birth of President James Monroe, which opened on April 28, his birth date, will extend through December 2, the 135th anniversary of the enunciation of the Monroe Doctrine. The James Monroe Memorial Foundation is cooperating with the Smithsonian Institution in the organization of an exhibit of portraits and memorabilia of the fifth president. Oil paintings, profiles, engravings, and lithographs will also include those of Monroe's contemporaries. The exhibition will be held October 25-November 23. President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon head the list of sponsors for the event.

Retiring president Ralph P. Hanes of Old Salem, Inc. announced a grant of $150,000 from the Mary Babcock Reynolds Foundation, for the purchase of property in the restoration area of the old Moravian city in North Carolina. A total of $238,601 in gifts was announced for the calendar year, which has made possible the administration to date of 36 pieces of early property, 31 of which are owned and five are leased. Frank F. Willingham was elected president, leading a list of officers and committees for the 1958-1959 term.

On October 12, at a special reception in her honor at the Spanish Embassy in Washington, D. C., Mrs. Frances Parkinson Keyes, author, editor, and traveler, was awarded the *Lazo de dama de Isabella la Catolica.* Mrs. Keyes has written extensively of Spain and Catholic South American countries; she is the author of *The Grace of Guadalupe; Therese, Saint of a Little Way; Bernadette of Lourdes;* and other religious biographies. In 1946 she was awarded the Siena Medal as the outstanding Catholic woman in the United States. As Custodian for the Keyes Foundation, she lives in the Beauregard House in New Orleans, which was saved several years ago by the Beauregard House Association (the house was to be torn down to make way for a macaroni factory). Mrs. Keyes recently restored the Beauregard family tombs. She is also the author of many books on New Orleans and Louisiana.

Five scholarships were awarded by the National Trust to Midwesterners actively engaged in historic preservation for the Seminars in American Culture, July 6-12, at Cooperstown, N. Y. Those receiving recognition in this manner were Mrs. Arthur A. Dawley, associate curator of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. R. B. Engelbeck, secretary of the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks, Des Moines; Mrs. Margaret Flint, assistant state librarian, Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield; Richard S. Hagen, historical consultant of the Illinois Division of Parks and Memorials, Springfield; and Leonard Johnson, chief curator of the Dearborn Historical Museum, Michigan. The scholarship fund was a gift of the Board of Directors of Lilly Endowment, Inc., of Indianapolis. The seminars are sponsored annually by the New York State Historical Association.

DESTRUCTION

Silver Spring, Md. Blair Mansion, built by Lincoln's Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair, was deliberately burned in September while firemen tested their equipment and routines, and scores of residents watched. *Silver Spring* was the country estate of Blair's father, Francis Preston Blair, who established and edited the politically powerful *Globe* during the Jackson and Van Buren administrations. The original mansion was burned to the ground by Confederate raiders during the Civil War. One of the Blair descendants at the scene said, "I spent

a very happy childhood up there on the hill, but guess burning the mansion down to make way for progress was about as dignified a way for it to go as any." The house was destroyed to make way for a shopping center.

Tarrytown, N. Y. Since the "gay nineties" era, many of the palatial mansions overlooking the Hudson River at Tarrytown have been lost because of high taxes and progress. The S. M. Lehman mansion, where former Governor Herbert H. Lehman spent much of his youth, was razed to provide future expansion for General Foods. One of the few which remains is the Lyndhurst mansion built by Jay Gould in the 1870's, and now occupied by his only surviving daughter Anne, the Duchess of Talleyrand.

Lahaina, Hawaii. Fire swept the old Hale Paahao, or Old Prison, on the Island of Maui late this summer, according to reports received from John A. Hussey, regional historian in the National Park Service's San Francisco office. The old jail, made of stout wooden timbers in 1851, was erected primarily to keep the drunken and disorderly seamen from the whaling ships from molesting citizens of the town. The prison and its courtyard were surrounded by a high wall of coral blocks. Despite the fire, destruction was con-

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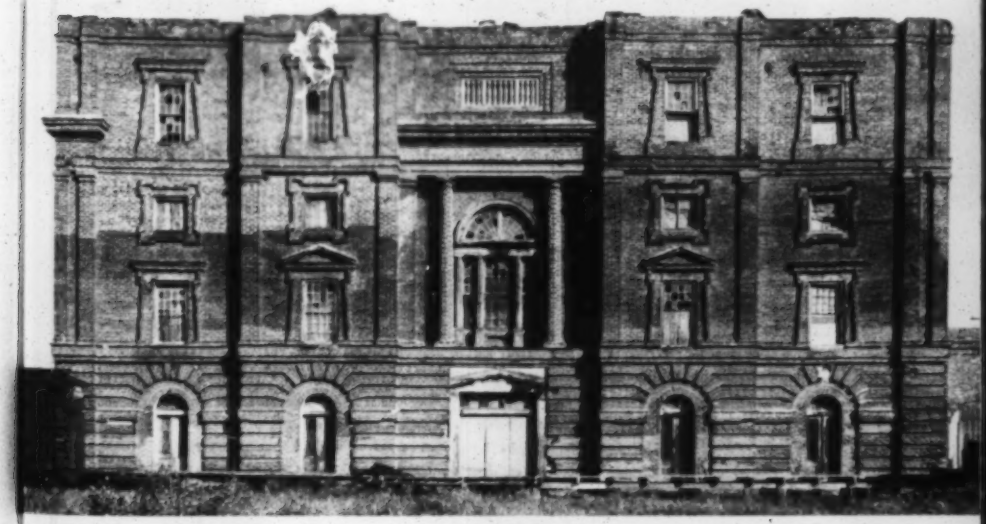
A last minute rally, led by the Historic Charleston Foundation, has saved Bennett Rice Mill (1841) on the Cooper River waterfront from destruction as a fire hazard in the development area of the South Carolina State Ports Authority. This famous monument of handsome early industrial design will be fireproofed and stabilized at a cost of $3000, leaving to some future generation the opportunity to restore it to usefulness. The suggestion of Robert N. S. Whitelaw, a charter member of the National Trust, was supported by C. Stuart Dawson, city engineer; President Ben Scott Whaley and the Historic Charleston Foundation; the *Charleston News and Courier;* and a number of leading citizens. First pledge to the stabilization fund came from Harry V. Salmons whose dredging company is located nearby.



fined to one corner of the delapidated building. A plan for the restoration of the jail under the joint sponsorship of the County of Maui and the Maui Historical Society will be carried forward.

Ottawa, Ill. The city is tearing down the house where Abraham Lincoln stayed after his debate with Stephen A. Douglas, August 21, 1858. Mayor J. O. Glover was Lincoln's host when Lincoln and Douglas began the series of debates in Washington Park. The site probably will be used for a parking lot.

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Elizabeth City, N. C. The Society for the Preservation of North Carolina Antiquities and the state of North Carolina are interested in assisting the local committee preserve *Fairfield,* Georgian house of Revolutionary General Isaac Gregory. The house is in disrepair and unoccupied, although the owners are willing to deed it to a nonprofit organization that might restore it for appropriate civic purposes.

Fremont, Calif. Purchase of the historic Gallegos estate at Mission San José by the city officials is being urged by the local Chamber of Commerce. Juan Gallegos was one of the early vineyardists in the area, and when the Mission San José de Guadelupe celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1897, more than 10,000 attended the festive barbecue on his rancho. Descendants of the pioneer family still live in the lavish residence, now on the Mission District's main thoroughfare, Vallejo Street, which is also highway No. 9. The Chamber report recommends acquisition of 11 acres of the remaining 30 acres of the vast Gallegos estate. They point out it is the last and only portion of the 1797 Mission available to the city, the remainder being held by the Dominican Convent and the Holy Family Novitiate. They propose that tree-lined Mill Creek, the adjacent old avocado, lime, lemon, and orange orchards, the olive groves, gardens, and waterfalls become a botanical park. The old Gallegos mansion could serve as a museum to house historic relics.

Washington, Ark. The Pioneer Washington Restoration is being formed as a nonprofit corporation of Hempstead County citizens to restore and preserve local landmarks. The Bowie knife was invented in a blacksmith shop in Washington; Sam Houston planned the Texas Revolution from a tavern there; and the city was the Arkansas Civil War capital. The group hopes to gain cooperation of property owners to repair existing old structures and to replant the streets with magnolia, catalpa, and black locust trees.

Lexington, Ky. The Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation seeks to preserve Cincinnatus Shryock's Centenary Church. A plan has been worked out whereby the congregation of Everybody's Church will leave its temporary headquarters at the Ben Ali Theatre and make the Centenary Church its permanent place of worship. The owners of the property agreed to finance the debt of the church on liberal terms and contributed $5,000 to the endeavor. After members of Everybody's Church made their pledges, $50,000 was still needed to secure the church and put it in good repair. Shyrock constructed four churches in Lexington: the First Presbyterian Church, North Broadway and Second Streets, in 1864; he was supervising architect for St. Peter's Church, West Main Street, in 1869; in 1870 he built the Centenary Church, North Broadway and Church Streets; and in 1872 he crowned his career as architect and builder of the Presbyterian Church, North Mill Street.

Minneapolis, Minn. Minnesota Historical Society, after 109 years, is branching out from its St. Paul headquarters to own and operate a property of historic interest in Hastings. The LeDuc-Simmons house, older than the state, was deeded to the Society by its present occupant, Carroll B. Simmons, a relative of Civil War Gen. William Gates LeDuc, who lived in Minnesota 68 of his 96 years. The 16-room house, built of 3-foot-thick limestone blocks quarried near Hastings, heated by 10 fireplaces, and furnished with period tables, chairs, chandeliers, and settees, will continue to be occupied by Simmons. The Society will begin a long-range project to restore the house and add to the furnishings so it will appear as it did during the last half of the nineteenth century. A stable and octagonal icehouse are included with the property. Leonard Lampert, Jr., Minnesota Historical Society president, called the acquisition "an important milestone in development of historical consciousness in Minnesota." General LeDuc was U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture under President Rutherford B. Hayes, and entertained him in Hastings in 1878. LeDuc was an active promoter of railroads and immigration, and advertised Minnesota to Easterners by taking specimens of grain to New York and leading a buffalo up Broadway. He joined the Minnesota Historical Society in 1850, the year he came to the hamlet of St. Paul to open a law office.

Jackson, Miss. Mississippi's 118-year-old Capitol will be restored and converted into a museum. The building served as a statehouse 1840-1916; since then it has been an office building. The plan is to establish the first floor of the building as a museum with exhibits on archaeology, the Indians, the Civil War, and transportation. A special room will be set aside for exhibits on Mississippi's future.

STOCK FOR SALE

For $1.00, would-be speculators may obtain a warranty deed for one square foot of the old Dry Hill Patented Lode Mining Claim in Tombstone, Cochise County, Ariz. For those who hope to strike it rich in the town too tough to die, the handsome printed share certificate, signed, countersigned and notarized, in small print gives the donor full rights to minerals, waterways, any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agriculture, manufacturing, or other purposes. . . . The devisors of the wildcat speculating scheme, apparently aware that today's widows and orphans have been warned about reading all the small print, have placed their conditions in bold-faced type. All income from the venture, if any, will be paid to the Tombstone Restoration Commission. On December 19, 2024, which marks the 75th anniversary of the organization's founding, any balance of income from the fund, together with a quit claim deed to the property shall be donated to the city of Tombstone as a memorial to purchasers of the property.

This patented mine was contributed to the project by the Newmont Mining Company who had bought it from the original Tombstone Mining Company.

IN DANGER

Franconian Notch, N. H. The Profile of the Old Man of the Mountain may be doomed. According to Russell B. Tobey, director of state parks in charge of the attempt to preserve the Great Stone Face, "The same forces of nature that carved the face on the cliff of Cannon mountain are now irresistibly at work to destroy it." New Hampshire's renowned trademark juts out from sheer cliffs forming the west wall of Franconia Notch. Looming 1,200 feet above Profile Lake, the Great Stone Face consists of five layers of granite ledges arranged centuries ago by nature to form a man's profile. A slight earthquake tremor, a nearby dynamite explosion, or a sonic boom from a jet aircraft breaking the sound barrier could set off a big slide, causing an avalanche to sweep down through the Notch. Eighty years ago an Appalachian Mountain Club party discovered that the great 30-ton rock which forms the "forehead" was slipping. In 1915 preventive measures were taken, financed partly by the state and the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests. The "forehead" was clamped and riveted to the cliff with heavy iron rods and turnbuckles. Although there is no way of calculating how long the fall of the Old Man can be delayed, the first major work in 42 years to preserve the Great Stone Face started in July, authorized by the 1957 Legislature. In 1851 Daniel Webster wrote, "Tradesmen hang out signs indicative of their calling. In New Hampshire God Almighty has hung out a sign that here He makes men."

Montville, N. J. The restored Jennie Van Duyne house, a Dutch house built in 1771, is threatened with destruction by new highway FA1-104. A petition with 500 signatures was given to Governor Robert B. Meyner in protest.

York, Pa. General Gates' house, York's remaining relic of the Continental Congress, is for sale. The old brick building was reputedly the scene of a conspiratorial dinner when Lafayette successfully quashed a conspiracy to remove General Washington from command. The conspiracy, labeled the "Conway Cabal," was turned aside when Lafayette proposed a toast to the "Commander-in-Chief, General Washington" in the presence of the conspirators. Last December a move was begun by a special committee of the York Chamber of Commerce, proposing to purchase and preserve the building which General Gates used for his headquarters. The old structure houses Mike's Nut Shop and a vacant storeroom.

New York, N. Y. The three colossal stone atlantes by sculptor Karl Bitter, representing the White, Negro, and Malay races, are threatened with destruction. They adorn the facade of the St. Paul Building which is to be demolished. The National Sculpture Society was backed in its protest by architect Francis Keally who proposes that the sculpture be fitted into an appropriate setting on the United Nations grounds or at the Idlewild Airport. Says Adolph Block, Secretary of the National Sculpture Society, "Karl Bitter's masterpieces have contributed much to the brightest side of New York City. The Carl Schurz Memorial on Morningside Drive, the General Sigel equestrian statue on Riverside Drive and 106th Street, and the Pulitzer Fountain *Abundance* at the Fifty-ninth Street and Fifth Avenue Plaza, are monuments of great distinction and give their surroundings the dignity and charm worthy of a great metropolis."

St. Charles, Mo. The two-story white building that served as Missouri's first capitol stands vacant and is up for sale for $7,500. Missouri's first governor, Alexander McNair, transacted business in the building—the state house from the time of Missouri's admission to the Union in 1821 until the capital was transferred to Jefferson City in 1826. Preservation of the building as a historic site was urged by former Gov. Forrest Smith; Charles van Ravenswaay, director of the Missouri Historical Society; W. Howard Adams, president of the Jackson City Historical Society; and Bruce Barrington, its present owner. Barrington, owner of the radio station WEW at St. Louis, bought the building two years ago with the hope of creating interest in it as a monument. "Missouri is one of the few states in the Union which has not preserved its original capitol building," Governor Smith said. "It would be a crime to let that building go to ruin."

West Chester, Pa. The razing of one of the city's oldest buildings has been halted, pending consideration of a plan to preserve the 1789 structure. The bank had planned to tear the building down and provide outside "drive-in and walk-up windows" to the new adjoining bank building, as well as provide parking space for patrons.

Charleston, S. C. The 1839 Charleston Hotel, with an imposing facade of 14 Corinthian columns, is slated to be torn down and replaced by a 150-room motel, costing $500,000. Such famous guests as Princess Louise, daughter of Britain's Queen Victoria, and Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, and William Howard Taft, were housed there. In 1860 some of the first papers of secession were drawn up in one of its rooms. The original Charleston Hotel was destroyed by fire on its opening night.

PUBLICATIONS

Fabulous San Simeon. Oscar Lewis. San Francisco: California Historical Society. 96 pp., illus., and maps. $1.50.

The story of San Simeon ranch and of the building of the world-renowned Hearst Castle are related by Mr. Lewis. The book serves as a guide to the estate and identifies the art objects on display there.

La Casa Grande, the Moorish castle on the Hearst estate at San Simeon, Calif., was given to the state in March and opened to the public in June. In the creation of the huge hilltop estate, William Randolph Hearst spent millions of dollars laying out buildings and grounds and enriching both with objects of ancient, medieval, and renaissance art.

The History of Charles County, Maryland; written in its Tercentenary Year of 1958. Margaret Brown Klapthor and Paul Dennis Brown. La Plata, Md.: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc. 1958. 204 pp., illus., map, bibl., app. (heads of families in first U. S. Census, 1790). $4.95.

By the wisdom of its Tercentenary Committee, this fascinating Tidewater County of Maryland will have something to remember its celebration by, long after the last firework has fizzled, the last hardshelled crab has been shucked, and the pageant costumes put away. This community has authorized a scholarly history of its past, and entrusted it to a happy collaboration of daughter and father. This volume is the result, and embodies an extensive delving into amazingly complete county and church records, by the historian daughter and the father whose service as County Agricultural Agent has given him a thorough familiarity with every section of the area, including ancient towns and manor houses long since passed into oblivion.

The well-documented social and economic history of this tidewater county has some illuminating illustrations, including maps from the Public Records Office in London; a surveyor's sketch of the Charles County Courthouse made in 1697, showing courthouse; ordinary; "ould houses"; a pillory and stocks of great interest to the architectural historian, as the courthouse indicates an early porch chamber; portraits of notable residents; and a number of the early houses and churches of the county.

—H. D. B.

The Journal of Jean Laffite. New York: Vantage Press, Inc. 153 pp. $3.50.

The privateer-patriot's own story has been translated from the French. Jean Laffite did not keep a diary, but after his retirement he undertook to reconstruct the events of his career for his grandchildren, refreshing his memory from records and notes that had survived. Writing at home and as he traveled about the country, Laffite worked at the task from 1845 to 1850.

Once Upon A City: New York from 1890 to 1910. Photographs by Byron. Description by Grace M. Mayer. Foreword by Edward Steichen. New York: The Macmillan Company. 511 pp. and illus. $15.00.

More than 200 photographs have been selected by Miss Mayer, Curator of Prints at the Museum of the City of New York, from the Byron collection, to present an excellent glimpse into the Tiffany glass era of New York. The Byron family established a New York studio in 1889 and, from that time forward, turned their collective cameras to everything and everybody. The unusual clarity of these photographs comments tellingly upon the taste, social conditions, and sparkling personalities of the 1890-1910 period which Miss Mayer has chosen to stress. These, with the pointed descriptive text which accompanies them, bring alive the era of glitter, affording the reader an intimate insight into the world of such turn-of-the-century celebrities as Lillian Russell, Sarah Bernhardt, Elsie de Wolfe, the Morgans, the Vanderbilts, and the Goulds. Against this gold curtain, Coney Island, the Lower East Side, and the Bowery form a foil to create an unusual volume significant in sociological and aesthetic expression of a not-too-distant world already gone.

—W. J. M.

A Guide to Art Museums of New England. S. Lane Faison, Jr. Foreword by Perry T. Rathbone. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co. 1958. 270 pp., illus., maps, app., and index. $5.00.

This guide to the collections of 61 art museums and other art collections of New England is an able and well-organized reminder of the great cultural debt that America owes to this section of our nation. Of especial interest to those in the field of historic preservation is the inclusion of certain historic house or village-type museums and their special treasures.

It not only gives specific information on the location and hours at which each museum is open to the public, but provides a road-map detail for it. Collections are listed alphabetically for these museums in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The 400 illustrations of works of art represent the author's selection of the outstanding items in each collection. —H. D. B.

"Walden on Trial," Truman Nelson. *The Nation.* July 19, 1958. Reprints, Available through Wilderness Society, 2144 P Street, N.W., Washington 7, D. C.

Truman Nelson, author of *The Sin of the Prophet* and a forthcoming study of John Brown, recounts with all the drama of a murder or spy trial the outrage of the Walden Trial. A member of the Thoreau Society and the Save Walden Committeee, Mr. Nelson was also a "witness to the persecution" of his colleagues who spoke against the violation at Walden in an injunction against the Middlesex County Commissioners, custodians of the pond which had been given to the "people of Massachusetts by Emerson's children and friends as an evergreen memorial to the two great and noble men."

According to Mr. Nelson, "The record alone of this litigation will cost $1,800. Total legal costs to the society have now reached $4,494, of which we are many dollars short. The cost to the taxpayers is well over $50,000, and no restoration of damage has yet begun. What has made a simple act of principle so costly in this country today? Don't the people of this nation hold title to its natural resources and the great public sites that have shaped their destiny? And yet these beachheads, these commanding heights of our heritage, are almost always controlled by politicians who use them as their private property, who are generous about giving away that which they do not own and which costs them nothing; who will surrender anything at the drop of a tax rate to any promoter who can make a fast dollar from them, or to any contractor who can release, like the *Sorcerer's Apprentice,* leveling tides of black-top which engulf ancient strongholds of the people and drown them in oblivion. The beautiful profiles of old cities, the wild and tonic places of our youth, are eroding away forever; our children will never know them. Likewise our liberties."

As frustrating as the trial, is its verdict: the Thoreau Society was right and the Commissioners were wrong in cutting down the trees and bulldozing the shores, but it is a question of "law" as to whether this was or was not contrary to the "preservation of the Walden of Emerson and Thoreau."

The article might have been entitled "Harral-Wheeeler on Trial" and have been written by a member of the Bridgeport Historical Society of its desperate struggle to save this historic property. Mr. Nelson might have dedicated this story to all the conservation and history-conscious souls who have fought to save, continued to fight during destruction, and whose voices refuse to die even after the subject of the crusade has been mutilated, quartered, or killed. —T. B.

Your Community Can Profit from the Tourist Business. U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Area Development. Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office. 1957. 25 pp., illus., charts, and bibliog. $.15.

Defining a "tourist" as *anyone who travels away from home,* Victor Roterus, director of the Office of Area Development, states that estimates place this tourist business at $15 billion to $24 billion annually. Some of this tourist travel is purely for recreation or vacation. Another portion is that of the business traveler who must go to a certain place; when there, however, he is liable to spend his money in much the same way as the vacationist in a community. If sufficiently interested, he may remain or return to an area to vacation.

Among the subjects discussed are: how each community may get its share of this wealth; how every person in the community benefits; how tourist attractions help to bring new industry; how to determine what your community has to sell and how to sell what you have; and a useful list of sources.

Items discussed of interest to those considering the economic value of historic sites and buildings, as well as their cultural and educational contribution to a community are: If a community can attract several dozen tourists a day throughout the year, it would be economically comparable to acquiring a new manufacturing industry with an annual payroll of $100,000. An average of 3½ million people a day travel for pleasure in the United States. "There is no such thing as *being off the beaten track*"—it can even be an asset in itself! The United States gets 12 vacationers for every one who goes abroad. The three categories of attractions are natural, man-made, and special events.

The well-presented historic site or building leads a list of man-made attractions. From dozens of ingenious special events that have been devised to support historic preservation one can only marvel at a selection that includes: Klompen Dances at Sleepy Hollow, N. Y.; the two-century old Dog Mart at Fredericksburg, Va.; the Pirate Festival at Tampa, Fla.; the Street Breakfast in Colorado Springs; Hiawatha Pageant at Elgin, Ill.; National Hobo Convention at Britt, Iowa; Heritage Week in hundreds of history-minded communities; garden tours; house tours; and clothesline art shows.

— H. D. B.

George Mason of Gunston Hall. Helen Hill Miller. Lorton, Va.: The Board of Regents of Gunston Hall. 68 pp. $1.00.

This booklet is the condensation of *George Mason, Constitutionalist* by Helen Hill (Miller), Harvard University Press, 1938, now out of print.

Planning and Community Appearance. A Report of the Joint Committee on Design and Control of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Regional Chapter of The American Institute of Planners. Prepared with the cooperation of the Regional Plan Association. Henry Fagin and Robert C. Weinberg, editors. Published for the Joint Committee with the aid of the Arnold Brunner Fund of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., by Regional Plan, Inc. New York, 1958. 174 pp., illus. $3.50, or $2.50 in lots of 10 or more copies.

Twelve experts, from as many angles, try to answer the question—*Why are American cities and towns so ugly?* Believing that pursuit of good community design is a legitimate function of government, they discuss the various approaches that have been made to the problem and their successes and failures. This book is a must for any citizen who shares concern that

as our cities grow and change they seem inevitably to change for the worse.

As the introduction states, "Our past is rich in lovely towns, villages, and even cities. In colonial times Nantucket, Williamsburg, and New Orleans grew, and as they grew took on charm and beauty. This occurred long before there was any thought of design control by master plans, zoning ordinances, and municipal art societies. Beauty seemed just to happen as settlements aged."

Julian Whittlesey, F.A.I.A.; Hugh R. Pomeroy, A.I.P.; and Christopher Tunnard, A.I.A., A.I.P. are among the group of selected authorities in the field from whose minds stem such thoughts so sympathetic to the civic beauties and values of the past in the present.

The volume takes up the problems attendant upon such beauty from the general to the detailed, beginning with a discussion of the *abstracts* of city planning, i.e. the underlying philosophy of aesthetics as it applies to the city, with a discussion of what makes for a beautiful environment and what destroys it. From this point it instructs the reader in the processes of creating programs for community improvement, the incentives for them, and the beneficial fruits to be reaped from such thinking and planning. It delves deeply into the aesthetic aspects of overall community patterns and the projected changes in city function. It happily considers heavily the tremendous value of historic landmarks and areas to the creation of more handsome American cities and discusses in detail the problem of uniformity versus dissimilarity in the preservation of historic areas.

Chapter Five is an extremely valuable addition to the book for anyone interested in the problem of the progressive ugliness of our cities. It contains a series of abstracts and excerpts from existing legislation and court decisions wherein the courts have dealt directly in legislation with the abstract, but important concepts of beauty, harmony, and maintenance of property values—not only in American cities, but in such European countries as France, England, and Germany.

An extremely useful four-page bibliography is appended to the rear of the book.

This little 160-page study is the best volume of its type that this office has seen in quite some time and one which we highly recommend. It is packed with information presented in an objective, straight forward manner and is a book invaluable as source material, not only for the elucidation of the abstracts of civic beauty but especially for the examples in legislation which it presents.

The National Trust has secured 10 copies of this book which are available to the first ten members who write for them at the reduced price of $2.50 each.

—W. J. M.

"Architecture Worth Saving," *Architectural Forum*, June 1958.

Much of America's architectural heritage has been destroyed; some important buildings stand doomed; others have been delivered from destruction. Examples of each category are given, as well as a program for saving significant structures. This collection was assembled by the Museum of Modern Art, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and *Architectural Forum* for the jointly sponsored exhibit prepared by the Museum for a showing in the gallery and a number of other cities.

Reprinted from *Architectural Forum*, the article serves as the catalog of the exhibit, which was to have opened in May. Because of the fire at the Museum of Modern Art, the exhibit was rescheduled for October 8-December 15.

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